



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/825,564	04/15/2004	Udo Arend	09334.0008-00	9126
22852	7590	05/30/2007	EXAMINER	
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413			VU, THANH T	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2174		
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		05/30/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/825,564	ARENDE ET AL.	
	Examiner Thanh T. Vu	Art Unit 2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 April 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/19/2005.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Serial numbers of related applications need to be added to the specification.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Branson et al.

("Branson", U.S. Pat. No. 2005/0114778).

Per claim 1, Branson teaches a method of progressively disclosing to a computer user structured database information for making a decision regarding an event, comprising:

alerting the user to the event (fig. 2; hover assistance 230; [0040]; [041]; the *user is being alerted to a hover assistance event 203 when the mouse pointer is over a graphical element*);

receiving a first request for the structured database information relating to the event (fig. 2; col. 4, [0042], [0048], and [0050]; *when user maintains the same mouse position over graphical element 210 of fig. 2 for a period of time or when the user enters a command input via an input device, the system receives a first request from the user for a next level of hover*

assistance; successive text messages with increasing assistance detail levels are considered as a structured data information and such data information is stored in memory or in a mass storage device, see fig. 1 and [0036]).

providing a first portion of the structured database information relating to the event (figs. 2 and 3; [0048]; hover text message 310 is provided on the display as a first portion of the hover assistance level relating to the mouse over (hover) event.

receiving a second request for additional structured database information and options relating to the event (figs. 3 and 4; col. 4, [0042], [0048], and [0050]; when user maintains the same mouse position over graphical element 310 of fig. 3 for a period of time or when the user enters a command input via an input device, the system receives a second request from the user for a next level of hover assistance and options relating to the hover event; successive text messages with increasing assistance detail levels are considered as a structured data information and such data information is stored in memory or in a mass storage device, see fig. 1 and [0036];)

providing a second portion of the structured database information and the options relating to the event, the second portion being larger than the first portion, the options including a mechanism for making the decision (figs. 3 and 4; [0048]; [0058] and [0061]; hover text message and options 430, 440 and 420 are provided on the display as a next level the hover assistance; the second portion 410 is larger than the first portion 310. User can select options 420, 430 and 440, see [0058] and [0061]).

Per claim 2, Branson teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a third request for additional structured database information and options relating to the event (figs. 4 and 5; col. 4, [0042], [0048], and [0050]; *when user maintains the same mouse position over graphical element 410 of fig. 4 for a period of time or when the user enters a command input via an input device, the system receives a second request from the user for a next level of hover assistance and options relating to the hover event; successive text messages with increasing assistance detail levels are considered as a structured data information and such data information is stored in memory or in a mass storage device, see fig. 1 and [0036]*) ; and

providing a third portion of the structured database information and the options relating to the event, the third portion being larger than the second portion, the options including a mechanism for making the decision (figs. 3 and 4; [0048]; [0058] and [0061]; *hover text message and options 430, 440 and 420 are provided on the display as a next level the hover assistance; the third portion 510 is larger than the second portion 410. User can select related actions 1-4 and detail help 5, see [0058] and [0061]*).

Per claim 3, Branson teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the alert is provided in a sidebar (*hover text message is provided on a graphical element i.e. toolbar or taskbar, see [0040] and [0041]*).

Per claim 4, Branson teaches the method of claim 1, wherein a notification is provided in place of an alert (fig. 2; [0042]; *hover text message 210*).

Per claim 5, Branson the method of claim 1, wherein the first portion of the structured database information relating to the event is provided in a contextual menu (*hover assistance is provided based on current user context, see. [0047]*).

Per claim 6, Branson teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the first portion of the structured database information relating to the event is provided in a flyout (fig. 3; flyout 310).

Per claim 7, Branson teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the second portion of the structured database information and the options relating to the event are provided in a quick activity window (fig. 4; *quick activity window 410 with various options 420, 430, and 440*, see [0058] and [0061]).

Per claim 8, Branson teaches the method of claim 2, wherein the third portion of the structured database information and the options relating to the event is provided in a guided activity window (fig. 5; *guided activity window 510 with text assistance*).

Per claim 9, Branson teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising providing unstructured database information in response to the second request ([0053] and [0054]; *user is provided a particular detail level without the need to go through the structure of successive hover assistance levels of increasing detail*.)

Per claim 10, Branson teaches the method of claim 2, further comprising providing unstructured database information in response to the third request ([0053] and [0054]; *user is provided a particular detail level without the need to go through the structure of successive hover assistance levels of increasing detail*.)

Claim 11 is rejected under the same rationale as claim 1, Branson further teaches a memory and a microprocessor couple to the memory (fig. 1; [0035]; 0036).

Claims 12-20 are rejected under the same rationale as claims 2-10 respectively.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ko (U.S. Pat. No. 7,027,626) discloses a system and method of producing user in interface information messages.

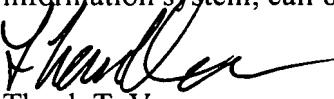
Clark et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,995,101) discloses multi-level tool tip.

Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh T. Vu whose telephone number is (571) 272-4073. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur and every other Fri 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Thanh T. Vu
Patent Examiner
AU 2174, TC 2100